

Please note that all charter trains will be steam-hauled

Tour highlights

- Ride the full length of the DHR behind steam
- Photograph a recreated DHR freight train
- Ride in the unique open wagon behind steam
- All charters behind the DHR's unique British-built 'B' class 0-4-0 tanks
- Time to explore Darjeeling
- Ride the 'joy train' up to the DHRT museum at Ghum
- Ride one of Kolkata's trams to see this vibrant city in close-up
- Option to visit Agra with its magnificent Taj Mahal and Red Fort
- Visit Delhi's impressive Railway Museum



Tuesday 8 January

Leave your local UK airport in the early afternoon on the flight to Dubai...

Wednesday 9 January

...After changing in Dubai, we arrive in Kolkata at 0740. After clearing immigration, we will transfer to a central Kolkata hotel where we will be able to freshen up after the flight. In the afternoon, we will take a walk through the city to see some of its highlights, the Raj Bhavan, St John's cathedral, the site of the infamous 'Black Hole' and a neat little 0-4-2 tank in front of Indian Railways' office. A ride over the River Hooghly (one of the mouths of the Ganges) by ferry to visit Howrah station and Kolkata's interesting rail museum.



Thursday 10 January

In the morning, we will take a ride on one of Kolkata's vintage trams - a great way to take in the city without having to fight your way along the pavements! The afternoon will be free to take another tram ride, visit the Victoria Memorial (a rival to the Taj Mahal, now an art museum). Option 1: we will spend the night in Kolkata. Option 2: at 2200, we will go down to Kolkata's Sealdah station to catch the overnight Darjeeling Mail to New Jalpaiguri, at the foot of the DHR.

Friday 11 January

OPTION 2: We should arrive in NJP at 0800, where a coach will meet us and take us to the Cindrella Hotel for breakfast and a quiet morning.

OPTION 1: We will go out to Kolkata airport and Catha late morning flight up to Bagdogra, the airport that serves the whole Darjeeling area – we should arrive at lunchtime.

BOTH OPTIONS: Charter trains over the lowest section of the line are very rare. We will go down to Siliguri Town station to watch the empty stock for our evening charter pass through the station. We then continue to New Jalpaiguri to join our exclusive dining train up to Rangtong.

Saturday 12 January

Our charter train will leave Siliguri Junction and travel up to Tindharia, where we will have a visit to the DHR's main workshops. A coach will run alongside the train for photographers. The coach will return us to Siliguri for the evening.





Sunday 13 January

The coach will take us up to Tindharia, from where our charter will continue up to Darjeeling. Again, the coach will run alongside the train for the photographers. We will also arrange for everyone to be able to photograph the train in Kurseong's bazaar, another iconic location. We will stay at The Windamere, the historic hotel, for three nights – this was once the preferred watering hole for the British tea-planters in the area.

Monday 14 January

We will run a photographer's freight charter up from Sonada to Darjeeling, but with a twist: at Ghum we will attach an open wagon in which we can ride down to Darjeeling, giving an entirely new perspective to this section.



Tuesday 15 January

A free day in Darjeeling, but we will arrange transport for anyone who wishes to ride or chase the Joy trains between Darjeeling and Ghum – there are wonderful photo opportunities on this stretch! Alternatively, Darjeeling has many attractions – the zoo, the Planters Club, the Tibetan self-help centre and the Ropeway spring immediately to mind.

Wednesday 16 January

We will catch the downhill service train (diesel-hauled) from Darjeeling to Siliguri Junction, from where the coach will collect us and take us back to the Cindrella Hotel for our last night.

Thursday 17 January

We will take you along the route of the DHR's old Gelle Khola (Kalimpong Road) branch to Sevoke, where we will see the Coronation Bridge over the Teesta, guarded by four ornamental lions. This is now the only practical road link between "mainland" India and the north-eastern states. In the afternoon, we'll arrange transport into Siliguri to see what a really busy Indian market city is like!

Friday 18 January

We will watch the morning train depart from Siliguri for Darjeeling and chase it up to Sukna. We then return to our hotel to pick up our bags and head for Bagdogra airport for the afternoon flight down to Kolkata. We will then check in for the 2125 flight....

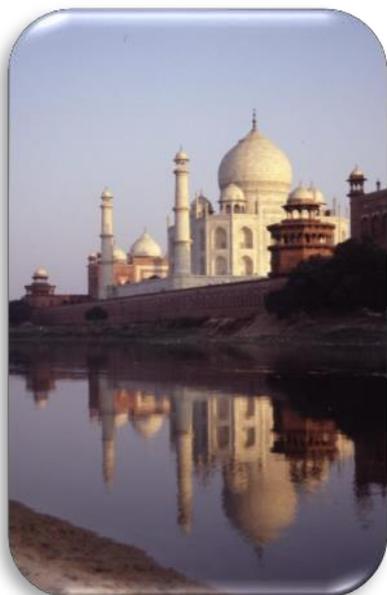
Saturday 19 January

....via Dubai, back to the UK.

See overleaf for the Optional Extension to Delhi and the Taj Mahal.



Optional extension to Delhi and the Taj Mahal



Friday 18 January

After breakfast, we head out to Bagdogra for the 1235 flight to Delhi, where a coach will meet us and drive us to our hotel.

Saturday 19 January

We will have a full day visiting the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort. The Taj is famous for its inlaid marble, and we will visit a workshop where the skills in marble inlay work can be demonstrated. Our train leaves Delhi at 0810 for Agra, where our coach will take us on the Agra tour. The return train leaves Agra at 1750 and, with dinner on the train, we should be back in Delhi at 1930.

Sunday 20 January

In the morning, we will organize a Delhi coach tour, and in the afternoon, we can offer a visit to the National Railway Museum or time in central New Delhi's Connaught Place. At 1630, we will have refreshments laid on at a hotel near the airport and then take the short transfer to be at the airport to catch the 2125 flight....

Monday 21 January

....via Dubai, back to the UK.

The tour

The tour includes a walking tour of Kolkata, the only practical way of seeing the city's highlights, and covers about 3 km (2 miles) at a reasonably gentle pace, taking around three hours

What's included?

Economy class flights to/from India, breakfast and dinner (*) daily, accommodation in 3-4 star hotels (or best available locally), all transport, charter trains and excursions as set out in the itinerary and the services of a Darjeeling Tours Limited Tour Manager. Personal and incidental expenses are not included. (*) Dinner is not included in Kolkata, Agra or Delhi, where there is plenty of choice, both in and out of our hotel. Food is not expensive, and this allows considerable individual flexibility.

Prices

Fully inclusive price from the UK	£3,595 based on two people sharing
Ground only price - Kolkata to Kolkata for the main tour, (Kolkata to Delhi with the Agra extension)	£3,195
Single supplement	£ 495
Extension to Agra	£ 475 based on two people sharing
Single supplement	£ 165

Please note that carriers, flights times and train times are subject to change.



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